

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-8. (Cancelled)

9.-10. (Cancelled)

11.-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic and a second state, resulting from immersion of the golf ball in water for a time period greater than two days and less than one hundred eighty days, in which the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is different than the first performance characteristic to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf, the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days;

striking the golf ball into an accumulation of water using a golf club; and

allowing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water for the time period of more than two days and less than one hundred eighty days so that the golf ball is caused by the water to be changed from the first state into the second state only

after immersion for the time period of at least two days and less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to crack.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic and a second state, resulting from immersion of the golf ball in water for a time period greater than two days and less than one hundred eighty days, in which the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is different than the first performance characteristic to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf, the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days;

striking the golf ball into an accumulation of water using a golf club; and

allowing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water for the time period of more than two days and less than one hundred eighty days so that the golf ball is caused by the water to be changed from the first state into the second state only after immersion for the time period of at least two days and less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to flake or chip.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic and a second state, resulting from immersion of the golf ball in water for a time period greater than two days and less than one hundred eighty days, in which the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is different than the first performance characteristic to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf, the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days;

striking the golf ball into an accumulation of water using a golf club; and

allowing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water for the time period of more than two days and less than one hundred eighty days so that the golf ball is caused by the water to be changed from the first state into the second state only after immersion for the time period of at least two days and less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to at least partially dissolve.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic;

placing the golf ball into an accumulation of water; and

causing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water and to change into a second state after a period of no less than two days and less than one hundred eighty days in which second state the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is detectably different to a golfer than the first performance characteristic by striking the golf ball with a golf club to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf,

the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to crack.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic;

placing the golf ball into an accumulation of water; and

causing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water and to change into a second state after a period of no less than two days and less than one hundred eighty days in which second state the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is detectably different to a golfer than the first performance characteristic by striking the golf ball with a golf club to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf,

the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to flake or chip.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of playing golf, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a golf ball having a first state wherein the golf ball has a first performance characteristic;

placing the golf ball into an accumulation of water; and

causing the golf ball to remain immersed in the accumulation of water and to change into a second state after a period of no less than two days and less than one hundred eighty days in which second state the golf ball has a second performance characteristic that is detectably different to a golfer than the first performance characteristic by striking the golf ball with a golf club to an extent that it is impractical to use the golf ball with the second performance characteristic to play golf,

the golf ball maintaining the first state while immersed in water up to the time period that is greater than two days but less than one hundred eighty days,

wherein the golf ball in changing from the first state into the second state is caused to at least partially dissolve.